

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:  
processing means for carrying out at least a processing of decoding encoded unit data and a pre-decoding processing related to said unit data, said pre-decoding processing being carried out prior to said processing of decoding;

storage means where decoded data obtained on said processing of decoding are written and transiently stored, said storage means including at least one transient storage area and data capacity changing means for changing ~~a the~~ data capacity of said at least one transient storage area depending on a total length of reproducing time for said unit data such that when the total length of reproducing time is greater or equal to a threshold duration, the data capacity is set to a first value and when the total length of reproducing time is less than the threshold duration the data capacity is set to a second value greater than the first value;  
and

outputting means from which the decoded data stored in said storage means is continuously read out and output as data for reproduction/outputting; said processing means commencing the processing of decoding of said unit data after the end of the pre-decoding processing related to said unit data.

Claim 2 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein, if second unit data is reproduced/output next to first unit data, said processing means commences pre-decoding processing related to said second unit data after the end of the processing of decoding of said first unit data.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said storage means includes a plurality of transient storage areas;

said processing means sequentially writes decoded data, obtained on processing of decoding, in said plurality of transient storage areas, from one data capacity of a transient storage area to another;

said outputting means reading out the written decoded data each time said decoded data is written in said transient storage area and outputting the data as data for reproduction/outputting.

Claim 4 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said processing of decoding for unit data is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation; and wherein said pre-decoding processing related to unit data is tamper check processing for said unit data.

Claim 5 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said processing of decoding for unit data is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation; and wherein said pre-decoding processing related to unit data is processing of decryption and/or demodulation for relevant data pertinent to said unit data.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said storage means includes a plurality of transient storage areas;

said data capacity changing means changing the data area of said plurality of transient storage areas depending on the duration of processing time needed for said pre-decoding processing relevant to said unit data.

Claim 8 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 7 wherein, if said pre-decoding processing relevant to unit data is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation of relevant data, related to said unit data, the duration of the processing time needed for said pre-decoding processing is estimated based on the ancillary information added as relevant data.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said storage means includes a plurality of sets of transient storage areas, said data capacity changing means selecting one transient storage area from one of said plurality of sets of transient storage areas depending on the duration of the processing time retained to be needed for said pre-decoding processing.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An information processing method comprising:  
pre-decoding encoded unit data;  
changing a data capacity of at least one transient storage area depending on a total length of reproducing time for said unit data such that when the total length of reproducing time is greater or equal to a threshold duration, the data capacity is set to a first value and when the total length of reproducing time is less than the threshold duration the data capacity is set to a second value greater than the first value;

storing said unit data in at least one transient storage area;

decoding said unit data after the end of said pre-decoding;

transiently storing decoded data obtained on said ~~processing of~~ decoding; and  
successively reading out said decoded data transiently stored by said transiently  
storing ~~processing of storage~~ and for outputting the read-out decoded data as data for  
reproduction/outputting.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to  
claim 10 wherein, when second unit data is reproduced/output next to first unit data, pre-  
decoding ~~processing relevant to~~ second unit data is commenced after the end of the  
~~processing of~~ decoding ~~[[of]]~~ first unit data.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to  
claim 10 wherein said ~~processing of~~ decoding includes decrypting and/or demodulating ~~is the~~  
~~processing of decryption and/or demodulation~~ and wherein said pre-decoding ~~processing~~ is  
tamper check processing for said unit data.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to  
claim 10 wherein said ~~processing of~~ decoding includes decrypting and/or demodulating ~~is the~~  
~~processing of decryption and/or demodulation~~ and wherein said pre-decoding includes  
decrypting and/or demodulating ~~processing is the processing of decryption and/or~~  
~~demodulation~~ for relevant data related to said unit data.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to  
claim 10, further comprising:

changing the data capacity of said at least one transient storage area depending on the duration of the processing time retained to be needed for pre-decoding ~~processing relevant to~~ said unit data.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 15 wherein, if said pre-decoding ~~processing relevant to~~ said unit data includes decrypting and/or demodulating ~~is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation~~ for relevant data related to unit data, the duration of the processing time, retained to be needed for said pre-decoding ~~processing~~, is estimated based on the ancillary information annexed to said relevant data.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 10 further comprising:

selecting one transient storage area of a plurality of sets of transient storage areas, each set being made up of a plurality of transient storage areas and having different storage capacities, depending on the duration of the processing time retained to be needed for said pre-decoding ~~processing~~.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:

a decoder configured to decode encoded unit data and to pre-decode data related to said unit data, pre-decoding being carried out prior to decoding, the decoder commencing decoding of said unit data after an end of pre-decoding the data related to said unit data;

a storage unit configured to receive and transiently store decoded data decoded by the decoder, said storage unit including at least one transient storage area and a data capacity changing unit configured to change a data capacity of said transient storage area depending

on a total length of reproducing time for said unit data such that when the total length of reproducing time is greater or equal to a threshold duration, the data capacity is set to a first value and when the total length of reproducing time is less than the threshold duration the data capacity is set to a second value greater than the first value; and

an output unit configured to continuously read out and output the decoded data stored in said storage unit.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein, if second unit data is reproduced/output next to first unit data, said decoder is configured to commence pre-decoding data related to said second unit data after an end of decoding said first unit data.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the decoder is configured to sequentially write decoded data, obtained during decoding, in said at least one transient storage area, from one data capacity of said transient storage area to another, and said output unit is configured to read out the written decoded data each time said decoded data is written in said at least one transient storage area.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said decoder is configured to perform decryption and/or demodulation processing and to perform tamper check processing for said unit data as the pre-decoding data related to unit data.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said decoder is configured to perform decryption and/or demodulation

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processing and to ~~two~~ perform decryption and/or demodulation for relevant data pertinent to said unit data as the pre-decoding data related to unit data.